

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 14506 01 OF 02 091749Z
ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SNM-02 INR-05 IO-06 NSCE-00
TRSE-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 OES-02 OMB-01 /039 W
-----015396 091929Z /45

R 091713Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0964
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 14506

LIMDIS

GENEVA FOR NARCOTICS COORDINATOR

PARIS FOR DEA/GALLAGHER

WH SIT ROOM PASS DOGOLOFF

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, SNAR, GW, WB, GE
SUBJECT: COOPERATION WITH THE GDR ON NARCOTICS

REF: (A) USBER 1872; (B) AMEMBASSY BERLIN 5118;
(C) USBER 1708

1. SUMMARY: THERE ARE SOME RECENT INDICATIONS THAT
THE GDR MIGHT BE MORE RECEPTIVE IN COOPERATING TO
COMBAT NARCOTIC TRAFFICKING. AND WE HAVE EVIDENCE
THAT HEROIN IS BEING TRAFFICKED IN AND THROUGH EAST
BERLIN. THE ISSUES ARE: DO WE AGAIN APPROACH THE
GDR SEEKING ACTIVE COOPERATION; IF SO, WHO APPROACHES
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PAGE 02 BONN 14506 01 OF 02 091749Z

THEM AND WHERE; AND HOW MUCH INFORMATION DO WE GIVE
THEM. END SUMMARY.

2. REFTTEL C, PARA. 3 REPORTS THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE
SUGGESTED THAT THE ALLIES SEEK THE COOPERATION OF THE
GDR IN FIGHTING CRIME IN WEST BERLIN. ALTHOUGH THE
SPECIFIC SUGGESTION IS AN OBVIOUS NON-STARTER, IT

MAY INDICATE A CHANGE OF ATTITUDE BY THE GDR.
REFTEL B SHOWS THAT THE EAST GERMANS ARE AT LEAST
INTERESTED IN RECEIVING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
CONCERNING NARCOTICS. THE ABOVE TWO ACTIONS MAY
SIGNAL ENOUGH CHANGE IN ATMOSPHERE TO ENCOURAGE US
TO SOLICIT ACTIVELY GDR COOPERATION IN FIGHTING
NARCOTIC TRAFFICKING THROUGH (AND PERHAPS IN) EAST
BERLIN.

3. EAST GERMANY HAS RECENTLY BEEN PROVIDED WITH HARD
EVIDENCE OF HEROIN SMUGGLING COMING THROUGH
SCHOENEFELD, (REFTEL A). IN ADDITION, DEA OPERATIONS
HAVE DEVELOPED SUBSTANTIAL INFORMATION THAT THE
FRIEDRICHSTRASSE STATION IS USED AS A SIGNIFICANT
MARKETING PLACE FOR DRUGS AND AS AN INTERCHANGE POINT
TO BRING DRUGS FROM EAST TO WEST BERLIN UNHINDERED.
OTHER INVESTIGATIONS INDICATE THAT VARIOUS LOCATIONS
IN EAST BERLIN ITSELF ARE BEING USED AS DEPOTS FOR
LARGE HEROIN CACHES AND THAT SUBSTANTIAL ILLEGAL
NARCOTIC TRANSACTIONS TAKE PLACE WITHIN THE EASTERN
SECTOR OF THE CITY. IN EFFECT, IF WE WANT, AND CAN GET,
THE EAST GERMANS TO COOPERATE IN COMBATTING DRUG
TRAFFICKING, THEY WILL HAVE PLENTY TO DO.

4. THE EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT ANOTHER APPROACH TO THE
GDR, PERHAPS AT A HIGHER LEVEL, OR IN A DIFFERENT
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PAGE 03 BONN 14506 01 OF 02 091749Z

FORM, BE CONSIDERED. SUGGESTED ACTIONS ARE: A
UNILATERAL US APPROACH THROUGH OUR EMBASSY IN EAST
BERLIN; A UNILATERAL OR COORDINATED APPROACH IN A
UN FORUM; AN UNFDAC APPROACH TO THE GDR; AN APPROACH
TO THE EAST GERMANS AT THE CUSTOMS CONFERENCE IN
BULGARIA. WHATEVER FORM WE CHOOSE, WE CAN APPEAL TO
THE GDR AS A SIGNATORY TO THE SINGLE CONVENTION AND
THE PSYCHOTROPICS CONVENTION TO LIVE UP TO ITS
OBLIGATIONS.

5. THE EMBASSY IS ALSO AWARE THAT WE SHOULD CONSIDER
WHETHER APPROACHING THE GDR ON THIS ISSUE WOULD BE
WORTHWHILE; GDR COOPERATION MAY GAIN THE REGIME MORE
POLITICAL MILEAGE VIS-A-VIS THE WEST THAN THE INTER-
DICTION WOULD BE WORTH.

6. IF WE DO DECIDE TO SOLICIT EAST GERMAN COOPERATION,
WE MUST THEN DETERMINE WHERE WE WISH COOPERATION AND
HOW MUCH INFORMATION WE PROVIDE THE GDR IN CONVINCING
IT TO COOPERATE. WE HAVE THREE POTENTIAL AREAS:
INTERDICTION AT SCHOENEFELD AIRPORT, IN COOPERATION
WITH US CUSTOMS AND POSSIBLY DEA, TO SLOW DOWN HEROIN

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PAGE 01 BONN 14506 02 OF 02 091752Z
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R 091713Z AUG 78
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 14506

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SMUGGLING VIA THAT ROUTE; INCREASED PATROLLING AND
INTENSIVE CUSTOMS CHECKS AT THE FRIEDRICHSTRASSE
POINT AND GDR POLICE ACTION WITHIN EAST BERLIN TO
UNCOVER DRUG CACHES AND SLOW DOWN HEROIN TRANSACTIONS
IN THAT SECTOR OF THE CITY.

7. THE EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN
TO BEGIN WITH SCHOENEFELD AND NOT MENTION THE OTHER
TWO AREAS AT THIS TIME. THE GDR HAS EVIDENCE OF
SMUGGLING THROUGH SCHOENEFELD; THE AIRPORT IS A SIGNIF-
ICANT GATEWAY FOR NARCOTICS FROM TURKEY INTO BERLIN
SO THAT EFFECTIVE ACTION THERE WOULD HELP TO CUT OFF
THE SOURCE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE EUROPEAN SIDE OF
THE PIPELINE; AND SCHOENEFELD IS PHYSICALLY LOCATED
OUTSIDE BERLIN SO THAT THE POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES
OF DEALING WITH THE GDR WITHIN THE CITY CAN BE
AVOIDED. SINCE A SCHOENEFELD INTERDICTION WOULD TAKE
PLACE ON THE GROUND, I.E., IN EAST GERMANY, THE
EMBASSY BELIEVES THE AIR REGIME ISSUE IS NOT
INVOLVED ALTHOUGH THE AIRCRAFT INVOLVED DO FLY
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PAGE 02 BONN 14506 02 OF 02 091752Z

THROUGH THE BERLIN CONTROL ZONE. WE COULD OFFER CUSTOMS AND/OR DEA TRAINING AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND POINT OUT THAT IT IS IN THE GDR'S INTEREST NOT TO HAVE ITS MAJOR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BE REGARDED AS A MAJOR GATEWAY FOR ILLEGAL NARCOTIC SMUGGLING.

8. ONCE COOPERATION WAS UNDERWAY AND PRACTICED FOR A WHILE, WE MIGHT THEN WISH TO RAISE THE ISSUE OF FRIEDRICHSTRASSE, DEPENDING ON THE GDR ATTITUDE TOWARD COOPERATION, THE POLITICAL CLIMATE AT THE TIME, AND THE ROLE WE SEE THE GDR PLAYING AT THE STATION. WE SUGGEST THAT WE NOT DEVELOP THE ISSUE OF CACHES IN EAST BERLIN FOR A LONG TIME, IF AT ALL. SENSITIVE INFORMATION SOURCES ARE INVOLVED AND THE ISSUE MIGHT TAKE CARE OF ITSELF, AT LEAST SOMEWHAT, IF TRAFFICKING THROUGH SCHOENEFELD IS SUCCESSFULLY INTERDICTED.

9. WE NOTE THAT SINCE THE FRG REPRESENTS THE INTERESTS OF WEST BERLIN ABROAD IF WE DECIDE THAT AN APPROACH TO THE GDR IS DESIREABLE, WE SHOULD FIRST DISCUSS THE ISSUE WITH THE FRG TO DETERMINE ITS REACTION. WE FEAR THAT ANY DIRECT FRG APPROACH TO EAST GERMANY WILL RESULT IN AN OUTRIGHT REJECTION SIMILAR TO THE ONE THE GDR GAVE BONN IN OCTOBER, 1977, WHEN THE FRG RAISED THE ISSUE OF NARCOTICS. NEVERTHELESS WE SHOULD KEEP THE FRG, AND THE BRITISH AND FRENCH CLOSELY INFORMED AND COORDINATE OUR ACTIONS WITH THEM AS WE MOVE TOWARD A DECISION.

10. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THERE IS NOW A GOOD OBJECTIVE CASE TO GO TO THE GDR. AS A PRELIMINARY SUGGESTION, SUBJECT TO REVIEW, WE RECOMMEND THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO HAVING OUR EMBASSY IN CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 BONN 14506 02 OF 02 091752Z

EAST BERLIN APPROACH THE GDR AT A FAIRLY HIGH LEVEL, ACTIVELY SOLICIT GDR COOPERATION IN COMBATTING DRUG SMUGGLING AT SCHOENEFELD, AND OFFER U.S. ASSISTANCE. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMALLY TOLD THAT THE MILITARY TASK FORCE OF THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON NARCOTICS ABUSE WILL HOLD HEARINGS IN BERLIN NOVEMBER 12-22, 1978. CONGRESSMAN WOLF HAS ALSO PUBLICLY EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER DRUGS REACHING U.S. TROOPS IN WEST BERLIN VIA THE EAST SECTOR. IT APPEARS TO US THAT THIS INCREASED CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN MAKES IT EVEN MORE IMPERATIVE THAT WE MOVE QUICKLY IN DETERMINING WHETHER WE CAN EXPECT GDR COOPERATION

IN FIGHTING DRUG TRAFFICKING.

11. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT, USBER AND
AMEMBASSY BERLIN COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NARCOTICS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BONN14506
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780326-0365
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780879/aaaacolm.tel
Line Count: 229
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0fc0ea65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 78 USBERLIN 1872, 78 USBERLIN 1708
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1782693
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COOPERATION WITH THE GDR ON NARCOTICS
TAGS: PGOV, SNAR, GE, WB, GC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0fc0ea65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014